

For practice and actions within the context and guidance of related policies.

Title	Current Covid-19 Expectations		
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Distribution	All Academies. All Staff All Supply	Approved on	01/10/24
Purpose & comments	<p>This document sets out current expected safe practice and guidance regarding the management of positive Covid-19 cases within Cidari.</p> <p>The base document was created on 8th September 2023.</p> <p>This document reflects the latest NHS, UKHSA (United Kingdom Health Security Agency), and Government information and advice.</p> <p>This document has been created for general information and reassurance purposes, and will remain under review.</p>		

What is the current national advice?

There is no legal requirement to test, even if you have symptoms of Covid-19.

There is no legal requirement to isolate.

Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you:

- have any symptoms of Covid-19, and have a high temperature **or** you do not feel well enough to go to work or do your normal activities.
- have tested positive for Covid-19 – this means it's very likely you have the virus

You should avoid being in close contact with people at higher risk from Covid-19.

This is particularly important if their immune system means they're at higher risk of serious illness from Covid-19, even if they've had a Covid-19 vaccine.

What if an adult tests positive?

If you have Covid-19, you can pass on the virus to other people for up to 10 days from when your infection starts. Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days.

You should:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days
- avoiding meeting people at higher risk from Covid-19 for 10 days, especially if their immune system means they're at higher risk of serious illness from Covid-19, even if they've had a Covid-19 vaccine





This starts from the day after you did the test. Then you should do the following to **prevent further transmission**:

- try to work from home if you can – if you're unable to work from home, ask your employer about options available to you
- stay at home if you can – this helps reduce the number of people you have contact with
- avoid contact with people at higher risk from Covid-19 for 10 days, especially if their immune system means they're at higher risk of serious illness from Covid-19, even if they've had a Covid-19 vaccine
- follow advice on how to avoid spreading Covid-19 to people you live with
- let people who need to come into your home know that you've tested positive or have symptoms – they can then take steps to protect themselves, such as wearing a face covering that fits well, staying away from you as much as they can, and washing their hands regularly
- contact your healthcare provider and tell them about your positive test result or symptoms if you're asked to attend a medical or dental appointment in person
- ask friends, family or neighbours to get food or other essentials for you

What if you need to leave home during the 5 days after testing positive or feeling unwell?

- wear a face covering that fits snugly against your face and has more than 1 layer
- avoid contact with people at higher risk from Covid-19, especially if their immune system means they're at higher risk of serious illness from Covid-19, even if they've had a Covid-19 vaccine
- avoid indoor or crowded places (including public transport or large social gatherings) or where there is not much fresh air
- do any exercise outdoors and where you will not be in close contact with other people
- avoid touching your face
- cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze or cough
- wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, or use hand sanitiser, after you cough, sneeze or blow your nose, and before you eat and handle food

What if a child tests positive?

If a child or young person aged 18 or under tests positive for Covid-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. This starts from the day after they did the test.

Children and young people tend to be infectious to others for less time than adults. If they're well and do not have a temperature after 3 days, there's a much lower risk that they'll pass on Covid-19 to others.

During the 3 days Children should follow the same steps as Adults above to reduce the risk of transmission.



What is the Trust’s current guidance, advice and expectations for Staff?

In addition to the recommendations in the national guidance, the Trust has the following process in place to minimise the risk of infection and transmission in our Academies.

If you have symptoms of Covid-19, Trust advice is to take a Lateral Flow Test. A set of tests will be provided to all employees week commencing 11th September 2023.

If the result is positive

Do not attend your Academy for 5 clear days after the day of the test, or from the day symptoms started (whichever was earlier). There is no need to take a test to return to work, and if you feel well enough, you should return to work on day 6. You should not return to work if you have a high temperature or fever. After 5 days, tests can still show a positive result. National guidance states that positive tests are likely to continue for several days beyond the period of transmissibility and that the risk of being contagious is low.

If you test positive but feel well, you may be able to work from home. Any such arrangements will be made in discussion with your headteacher.

The 5 clear days off following a positive test will not be treated as sickness absence so long as evidence of the positive test (a photograph) is sent to the Academy on day 1. Time off after the 5 clear days will be treated as normal sickness absence and count towards triggers.

Example 1: Early Symptoms		
Friday	Symptoms Start	Day 1
Saturday	Positive Test	Day 2
Sunday		Day 3
Monday		Day 4
Tuesday		Day 5
Wednesday	Return to work if feeling well	
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		

Example 2: No or Later Symptoms		
Friday		
Saturday	Positive Test	
Sunday		Day 1
Monday		Day 2
Tuesday		Day 3
Wednesday		Day 4
Thursday		Day 5
Friday	Return to work if feeling well	
Saturday		



If the result is negative

If you feel well and have no fever you can return to work. If you feel unwell you should remain off school until you are well enough to return. This will be treated as normal sickness absence.

There is never an expectation that someone who is unwell will be asked or permitted to work from home. The focus must be on your own health and recovery.

All Cidari staff still have access to PPE and face coverings to wear in school if they so choose.

What is the Trust's current advice for parents, carers and pupils?

With the removal of free testing, there is no mandate for us to compel parents and carers or their children to test. Likewise we cannot insist that they stay at home unless they are unwell and have a fever, only that we recommend that they follow the guidance to protect the health and wellbeing of their family, friends and wider communities.

Preventing Transmission in our Settings

Cleaning & Mitigation

Current cleaning regimes are deemed sufficient, however in areas identified to have had either suspected or confirmed cases, enhanced cleaning measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of transmission. This may include additional fogging of spaces and resources, and in some cases removal of some soft furnishings.

Infection Prevention and Control

Prevention of transmission of infection by respiratory and contact routes is required so any suspected or confirmed cases will be required to remain off school or work and seek treatment. All Cidari Academies have stocks of PPE which are available to be worn if required when dealing with suspected or confirmed cases. Staff should be additionally vigilant around the risks posed by cuts and grazes, especially when dealing with first aid related incidents and gloves and other PPE should always be worn when providing treatment. Hard surfaces and contact points should be wiped down at regular intervals with approved cleaning agents and disposable wipes. The frequency of this will be determined locally based on levels of sickness and absence within a setting.

For extra reassurance the electrostatic mist devices can be used at the end of the school day.

DFE Guidance & School Closure

There is no longer a requirement for 'bubbles'. Where an outbreak concern is identified, advice will be taken from UKHSA who have the authority to partially or fully close a setting.

Do staff or pupils have to isolate?

There is no legal requirement to isolate.



Review and Response

The measures in place will be under review as further guidance is issued by UKHSA and central Government.

We remain prepared to respond to any rise in cases by reverting to the more direct mitigation measures and intervention strategies. Any such decision will be taken in collaboration with our local Public Health Professionals.

You can read the latest Government guidance on [Covid-19 here](#).